

REMARKS

Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner's allowance of Claims 16-23, 25-28 and 43-47 is gratefully acknowledged. By the present amendment, Claims 27 and 28 have been amended. The amendments made herein focus the presently claimed invention on certain embodiments. No new matter is added by this amendment. Support for amended Claims can be found throughout the specification and Claims as filed.

I. A Sufficient Antecedent Basis Exists For Claim 27, 28 and 46

The Examiner has rejected Claims 27, 28 and 46 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

1. Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to provide an antecedent basis

Specifically, in regard to Claims 27 and 28, the Examiner stated that there was not a sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations "the unaged precipitate," "the washed" and "said solution" as disclosed therein. Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to depend on Claim 26. Claim 26 discloses a compound obtained as a precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts. Claims 27 and 28 impose further limitations on the precipitate set-forth in Claim 26. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amended claims.

2. Claim 46 has a sufficient antecedent basis in the specification

In regard to Claim 46, the Examiner stated that there was not a sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "hydrotalcite" as disclosed therein. Specifically, the Examiner found the lack of an antecedent basis arising from the position that a hydrotalcite is an aluminum-based compound. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner as mis-read Claim 46. Specifically, Applicant directs the Examiner to the language of Claim 46 which states "said compound has a **hydrotalcite type** structure." (Emphasis added.) While it is known to a person skilled in the art that hydrotalcite compounds generally contain aluminum, it is also known in the art that "hydrotalcite type" compounds are those with a similar structure to that of an aluminum containing compound, but need not actually be an aluminum containing hydrotalcite compound. Support for such reasoning is found in the specification which states, "preferred mixed metal hydroxy carbonates containing each of magnesium and iron are of a hydrotalcite structure."

(Application at p. 3.) This teaching makes clear that actual presence of aluminum is unnecessary to the application; rather, all that is required is that the compound have a hydrotalcite structure. Therefore, Claim 46, as presented, does not require a limitation referring to aluminum in order to have sufficient antecedent basis.

The instant Application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ Lawrence S. Pope/

Lawrence S. Pope

Registration No. 26,791

Direct No. (312) 701-8286

CUSTOMER NUMBER 26565

MAYER BROWN LLP

P.O. Box 2828

Chicago, IL 60690-2828

Telephone: (312) 701-8286

Facsimile: (312) 706-9142